

Heney Will Support Wilson

Among the prominent progressives who have announced their support of the democratic ticket is Francis J. Heney of California, who attained national prominence for his vigorous prosecution of the bootleggers, gamblers and grafters of San Francisco. Mr. Heney recently sent the following statement to President Wilson:

Honorable Woodrow Wilson,

White House Washington, D. C.

As one of the delegates who left the republican convention in Chicago four years ago and participated in the organization of the national progressive party, I desire to assure you that it is now my intention earnestly and actively to work for your re-election as President. My admiration and affection for Theodore Roosevelt, and my respect for the opinion of those republican delegates with whom I participated in organizing the national progressive party, and the more than four million voters who endorsed our action at the polls, constrains me to state with some fullness my reasons for refusing to support Mr. Charles E. Hughes as the republican candidate for president.

Like the platform of the national progressive party, that of the democratic party, four years ago, contained a plank declaring in favor of the direct presidential preference primary, and in one of your first messages to congress you recommended its enactment. In the press of a vast volume of important remedial legislation, your recommendation has not yet been carried out by congress, and the various party platforms are silent on the subject this year. I have full faith, however, that you will ultimately bring about the enactment of this great reform into

law. The democratic party of which you are the head is not, like the republican party, in the unfortunate position of having the balance of power in its national convention vested in delegates from a group of states which never have helped to elect its presidential nominee, and which is not expected to do so at any time in the near future. Through your personal efforts as President, most of the other important planks of the national progressive platform of four years ago have already been enacted into law by congress. Consequently, I feel confident that you can be relied upon, if elected, further to exert your great influence to secure federal legislation which will require a presidential preference primary election to be held on the same day in every state in the union, for every political party, under the safeguards of law.

Four years ago, after the fiasco of nominating Mr. Taft, with the aid of dishonestly seated delegates, and of delegates who were representatives of a mere handful of officeholders in the southern states, had been perpetrated against them, a majority of the republican delegates who had been legally elected from those states having a preponderate republican vote, reassembled in Chicago and organized the national progressive party.

The primary and paramount purpose of the organization of the national progressive party was to place in the hands of the voters of each and every political party, through the instrumentality of a national direct presidential preference primary law, the power for a majority of the voters of each political party to nominate its candidate for the presidency. All thoughtful men among the republican delegates who organized that progressive movement realized that the manipulation of national political conventions by corrupt methods of the invisible government through political bosses, constitutes an ever continuing menace to the very existence of the republic itself. Every serious minded person must realize that a republican government in fact can not continue to exist under such political conditions. Political freedom is a mockery under a system which permits a few unscrupulous manipulators and corruptors to defeat the will of millions of voters in any political party by substituting the will of those few for the will of the voters. To continue such a political system means to invite and promote the ultimate destruction of the republic.

By depriving Roosevelt of the republican nomination four years ago, Senator Boise Penrose of Pennsylvania, Murray Crane, then senator, of Massachusetts, and William H. Barnes of New York, with the aid of such men as Elihu Root, who was the permanent chairman of the convention, continued their control of the republican national committee, and thus prolonged their power again to defeat the will of the majority of the republican voters. And they have now once more insured their control of the republican national committee for another four years, with the continuance of their power to again defeat the will of the republican voters in 1920, and thereafter, indefinitely, so long as we are without a presidential preference primary law.

Under the circumstances I can not follow Theodore Roosevelt back into the republican party while it is still controlled by those same men. If he had accepted the nomination of the progressive party at Chicago this year, I would have loyally and vigorously supported him, because he then would have represented the basic principle upon which the progressive

party was founded, to-wit: The right of the majority of voters of each political party to nominate its own candidate for president, without any few men possessing the power to prevent it.

It is reasonably certain that Mr. Hughes was not the first choice of a majority of the aggregate of republican and progressive voters in the United States. Mr. Hughes represents merely the consent of Penrose, Crane and Barnes to permit the republican party to have as its candidate a man selected by themselves, who, therefore, if elected president, would be disinclined to attempt to destroy the continuance of their control of the nominating machinery of the republican party, and their power thus to reward him with a renomination for another term. To my mind, the nomination of Mr. Hughes represents the fruition of the political corruption which was so successfully practiced by the republican national committee four years ago under the guidance of the men I have named. For that reason I can not vote for or support him. I do not question the personal integrity or character of Mr. Hughes, but I do condemn him unqualifiedly for permitting professional political tricksters to make a nation-wide canvass for his nomination while he was a member of the supreme court of the United States under an appointment for life, with the vast potential power which accompanies that position.

Personally I shall not vote for any republican candidate for president hereafter as long as the corrupt control of the nominating machinery of the republican party is permitted thus to continue in existence.

Please permit me also at this time to offer my heartiest approval of the policy of your administration towards Mexico. It seems to me that you have consistently, and amid great difficulties and discouragements, striven to treat that unfortunate neighboring nation with that patience and forbearance which one powerful and enlightened nation ought to exercise toward a much less powerful and much less enlightened nation, and from which it has already acquired, partly through conquest and partly through purchase, a magnificent empire of territory and natural resources, and in the minds of whose people, therefore, there must naturally exist apprehension as to the unselfishness of our motives and the disinterestedness of our actions. This must be apparent to any citizen of our own country who stops for a moment to consider the fact that under the dictatorship of Diaz, Americans, as well as other foreign capitalists, acquired the control and ownership of vast natural resources of fabulous value in Mexico. No patriotic citizen can fail to pray that we shall be delivered from the necessity of entering into a war with the distracted people who inhabit Mexico; but finally, if no other course shall lie open to us, I shall realize that you, in the full performance of your duty, have done everything that lies within your power properly to prevent such an issue.

Your temperate, restrained, but lofty exercise of the powerful weapons of diplomacy have kept this country safely out of the terrible struggle in Europe without any sacrifice of American honor or prestige, and you have wrung the most important concessions from belligerent foreign rulers, while steadfastly maintaining the dignity, peace and safety of the United States. Arguments that we should replace experience with inexperience in this vital field will be without avail.

The legislative accomplishments of your administration constitute a record little short of marvelous in three short years. Your administration has wrested the financial control of the

country from Wall street and lodged it with the people, thus rendering future trust-created panics and manipulation practically impossible. You have provided an income tax for the raising of revenue, thus placing the burdens of government where they belong and where they can best be borne. You are providing a non-partisan tariff commission, as advocated in the national progressive platform of 1912, that will take the tariff out of partisan politics, where it has long been an agency for evil. I might also speak of other important enactments, such as the trade commission law, the Clayton anti-trust law, the agricultural expansion act, the industrial employees arbitration act, the extension of the parcels post system, the driving of the notorious lobby out of Washington, the consummation of the constitutional amendment providing for election of United States senators by the people, and scores of other peices of important legislation for which the country is largely indebted to you and your administration.

I trust that you will feel free to call upon me to aid in any way that I can in your re-election to the presidency next November.

Sincerely,

FRANCIS J. HENEY.

MR. HUGHES AND THE HOUSE

The fact that many of the chairmanships of the house committees are held by southern representatives is distressing to Mr. Hughes. He says the house is "sectionally organized." Just how he would go about changing this, if he should become president, he doesn't say. It is presumed, though, he would favor reorganization of the house after the fashion that prevailed when his party was in power.

The house organization under the republican party's rule was unique. Sectional doesn't describe it. Its whole authority was vested in a picturesque old gentleman from Vermillion county, Illinois. Mr. Cannon was the speaker. He was the chairman of all the committees. He was the house. The members were mere marionettes. Those of them that danced when Cannon pulled the string were taken care of. Those that didn't were ignored. So far as serving his constituency, under the republican party's scheme of house organization, a congressman might just as well have remained back home.

Back of Cannon were powerful figures. They got what they wanted. They never appeared in the flesh. Out of that condition came the term "invisible government." They were strongly entrenched. It seemed impossible to drive them out. Yet, they were finally driven out, but only over the mangled remains of the republican party. Cannonism fell. The house of representatives again became such in fact.

Does Mr. Hughes want Cannonism restored. Would he remove southern representatives of legislative experience from committee chairmanships and replace them with automata? Would he dress the speaker again in the robes of czarism which were ripped from the shoulders of Uncle Joe? Is it Mr. Hughes's idea to so reorganize the house as to re-establish invisible government?—Oklahoma City Oklahoman.

SOMEBODY

Somebody did a golden deed;
Somebody proved a friend in need;
Somebody sang a beautiful song;
Somebody smiled the whole day long;
Somebody thought, "'Tis sweet to live";
Somebody said, "I'm glad to give";
Somebody fought a valiant fight;
Somebody lived to shield the right;
Was that "somebody" you?

—Author Unknown.

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